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Latinos in New Britain, Connecticut

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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in New Britain | Connecticut

by Daniel W. Vasquez, Research Associate

The Mauricio Gastón Institute of the University of Massachusetts Boston conducts research on and for the Latino population. A goal is to generate the kind of information and analysis necessary to develop sound public policy, and to improve Latino participation in the policy making process. In an effort to present vital information about Latinos to diverse audiences, the Gastón Institute has produced a series of basic demographic profiles for the states and selected cities of New England, based on the United States Census 2000.

Census 2000 data include changes in the way people were counted. The most significant change is to allow persons to select more than one race, creating a new multiracial category of “two or more races”, but meaning people may not be included in the race with which they most identify. There was, however, no way to choose more than one ethnicity; one must choose either Latino or not. Throughout this profile, numbers reflect Latinos of all races, or non-Latinos by race, with persons of two or more races counted separately. All categorizations are based solely on self-identification. All of this complicates comparisons between 1990 and 2000 data. However, the concepts are similar enough to make trends and patterns clear.

In New Britain, the general population changes from 1990 to 2000 were similar to national and state trends. The population of people of color — African Americans, Asians, Latinos, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders — grew at a higher rate than did the population of Non-Hispanic Whites, which actually shrank (see table 1). The total population of New Britain decreased by 5.2%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 6,854 or 55.8%, although “some other race” and Asians had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 26.8% of the population, an increase of 10.5 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. New Britain has the 6th largest population of Latinos in Connecticut and the 11th largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Bridgeport ranks fourth in the state.

Table 1

New Britain - Growth by Ethnicity							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Hispanic or Latino	19,138	26.8	12,284	16.3	6,854	55.8	10.5
White	42,083	58.8	56,405	74.7	-14,322	-25.4	-15.9
Black or African American	6,965	9.7	5,257	7.0	1,708	32.5	2.8
American Indian and Alaska Native	106	0.1	118	0.2	-12	-10.2	0.0
Asian ^a	1,636	2.3	1,294	1.7	359	27.7	0.6
Pacific Islander ^a	17	0.0					
Some other race	122	0.2	133	0.2	-11	-8.3	0.0
Two or more races ^b	1,471	2.1					
Total	71,538		75,491		-3,953	-5.2	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

Note: Growth figures will not balance due to the new multiracial category.

^a 'Asian and Pacific Islander' was split for the 2000 census. Growth and changes reflect combined total.

^b There was no equivalent category in the 1990 census.

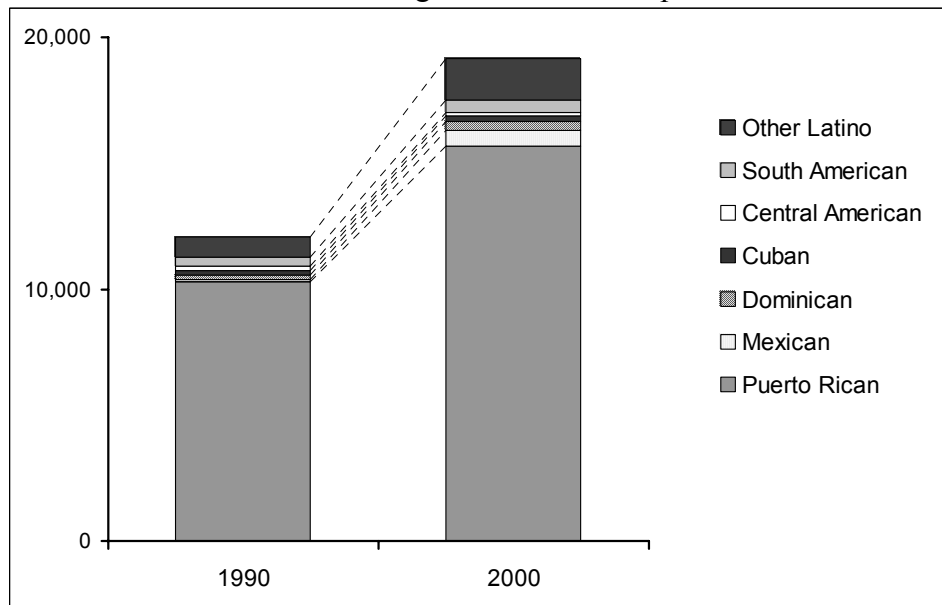
Table 2

New Britain - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	19,138		12,082		7,056	58.4
Mexican	625	3.3	107	0.9	518	484.1
Puerto Rican	15,693	82.0	10,290	85.2	5,403	52.5
Cuban	226	1.2	183	1.5	43	23.5
Dominican Republic	326	1.7	165	1.4	161	97.6
Other Central American	137	0.7	170	1.4	-33	-19.4
Other South American	486	2.5	365	3.0	121	33.2
Other Hispanic or Latino	1,645	8.6	802	6.6	843	105.1

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(b).

^a 1990 figures for nationality are from sample data only and differ from population counts.¹

Figure 1
New Britain - Growth and Change of the Latino Population



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

All Latino national-origin groups grew significantly between 1990¹ and 2000. The largest group in New Britain is Puerto Rican, at 82%, followed by “Other” Latinos and “Other South American.” “Other” Latinos were among the fastest-growing population - behind Mexicans - growing by 105.1%, a trend seen across the U.S. (see table 2 and figure 1). A person is counted as “Other” if they write in “Spanish” or give an answer that can't be assigned to a particular nationality (such as “Latino”), or if they identify more than one origin, or leave the answer blank. Future scholarly studies may better describe the composition of this category. The detailed breakdown of Central and South Americans is available at the Census Bureau’s American Fact Finder service, online at: factfinder.census.gov.

Table 3

New Britain - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	5,715		3,599		2,116	58.8	
Owners	1,178	20.6	482	13.4	696	144.4	7.2
Renters	4,537	79.4	3,117	86.6	1,420	45.6	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 79.4% versus 20.6%, although there has been a 7.2% increase in home ownership since 1990 (see table 3). Still, this is much lower than the state average of 66.8%. Although there has been a small growth in the proportion of non-family households, it is still true that most

Latinos, 78%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 22.3% of Latino-headed households, slightly less than the Connecticut average of 24.5%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 32.7% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.9%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

New Britain - Family Structure						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth	Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	in Percent
Families:	4,457	78.0	2,947	81.9	51.2	-3.9
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	1,275	22.3	869	24.1	46.7	-1.8
Female Head, with children	1,868	32.7	1,229	34.1	52.0	-1.5
Male Head, with children	300	5.2	146	4.1	105.5	1.2
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	611	10.7	476	13.2	28.4	-2.5
Single, no children	403	7.1	227	6.3	77.5	0.7
Non-Family Household	1,258	22.0	652	18.1	92.9	3.9
Total Households	5,715		3,599		58.8	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

^a Own or related children under 18 only.

Data Sources:

All available at American Fact Finder [online service]: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

U.S. Census Bureau:

2000: Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) 100% Data.

1990(a): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 1 (STF1) 100% Data.

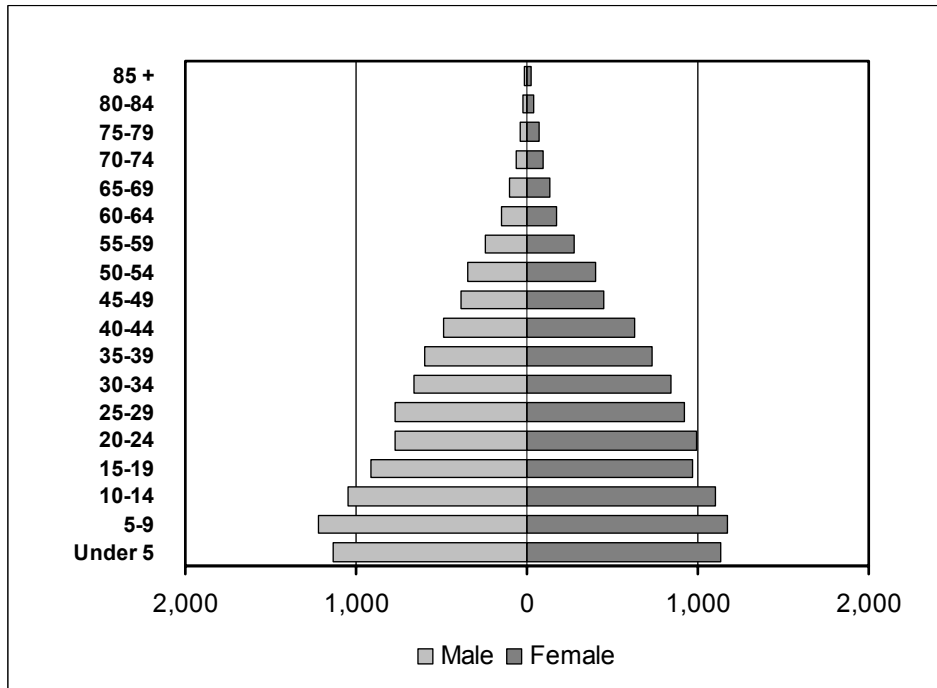
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

1992: 1990 Census of Population: General Population Characteristics. Washington DC: GPO.

Notes:

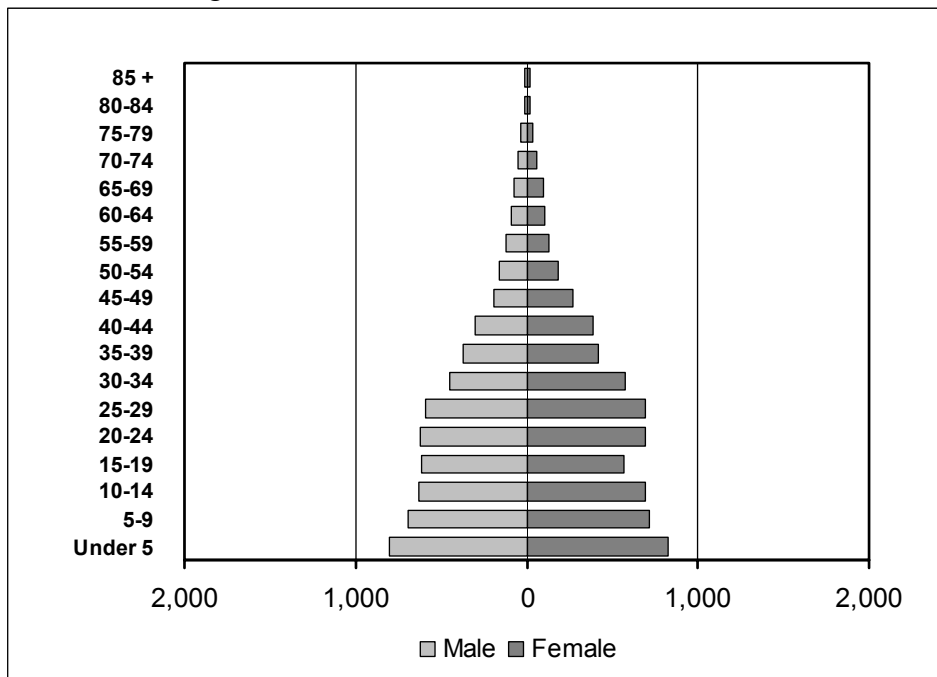
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates here are accurate enough to note trends and patterns.

Figure 2
New Britain - Age Profile 2000



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Figure 3
New Britain - Age Profile 1990



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

The age composition of Latinos in New Britain has changed. There has been an increase among all age groups, but especially among those in the middle years. Even though there are many more children, the overall Latino population is maturing (see figures 2 and 3).

While the Latino population in New Britain and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is younger than it was in 1990. In 2000, 45.4% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly more than the 45.2% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 22.5 is much younger than the overall Connecticut median age of 37.4. Women still tend to be older than men, but the gap closed during the 1990s. In addition to becoming relatively older, both Latinos and Latinas became less concentrated in the 20-29 age group (see tables 6 and 7).

Table 5

New Britain - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	4,663	24.4	3,041	24.8	53.3
10-19	4,027	21.0	2,503	20.4	60.9
20-29	3,460	18.1	2,593	21.1	33.4
30-39	2,832	14.8	1,816	14.8	55.9
40-49	1,955	10.2	1,145	9.3	70.7
50-59	1,264	6.6	592	4.8	113.5
60-69	558	2.9	363	3.0	53.7
70 and over	379	2.0	231	1.9	64.1
Total	19,138		12,284		55.8
Median Age	22.5		22.1		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Table 6

New Britain - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	2,352	26.2	1,497	25.8	57.1
10-19	1,957	21.8	1,246	21.4	57.1
20-29	1,542	17.2	1,209	20.8	27.5
30-39	1,258	14.0	822	14.1	53.0
40-49	873	9.7	492	8.5	77.4
50-59	588	6.6	282	4.9	108.5
60-69	250	2.8	162	2.8	54.3
70 and over	144	1.6	103	1.8	39.8
Total	8,964		5,813		54.2
Median Age	21.1		21.2		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Table 7

New Britain - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	2,311	22.7	1,544	23.9	49.7
10-19	2,070	20.3	1,257	19.4	64.7
20-29	1,918	18.9	1,384	21.4	38.6
30-39	1,574	15.5	994	15.4	58.4
40-49	1,082	10.6	653	10.1	65.7
50-59	676	6.6	310	4.8	118.1
60-69	308	3.0	201	3.1	53.2
70 and over	235	2.3	128	2.0	83.6
Total	10,174		6,471		57.2
Median Age	23.6		23.8		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.